

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of allowing users of [[an]] a computer-implemented application program running on a data processing system to manage add-ons associated with the application program, comprising:

(a) generating a user interface that identifies add-ons associated with an application program and responds to user input for managing the enable/disable state of said add-ons, the add-ons comprising small software programs pluggable into the application program for adding functionality to the application program; and

(b) in response to user input, managing the enable/disable state of said add-ons by:

(i) determining if the user has selected a list of add-ons;

(ii) if the user has selected a list of add-ons, determining if the user has selected a particular add-on from the list;

(iii) if the user has selected a particular add-on from the list, determining if the user has chosen to disable or enable the particular add-on;

(iv) if the user has chosen to disable the particular add-on, disabling the add-on; and

(v) if the user has chosen to enable the add-on, enabling the add-on.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said add-ons are chosen from the group comprising ActiveX® controls, browser helper objects, and toolbar extensions.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said add-ons include ActiveX® controls, and wherein the method further comprises updating said ActiveX® controls, in response to user input.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least some of said add-ons are included in an explicit list of administrator-denied add-ons, and wherein the method further comprises prohibiting the enablement of said administrator-denied add-ons in response to user input.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least some of said add-ons are included in an explicit list of administrator-approved add-ons, and wherein the method further comprises allowing the disablement of said administrator-approved add-ons in response to user input.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein an administrator of the application program has the capacity to disable a user's ability to manage the add-ons.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said user interface identifies add-ons by displaying information selected from the group comprising the name of the add-on, the publisher of the add-on, the status of the add-on, the type of add-on, and the time when the add-on was lastly accessed.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said user interface includes at least one list of add-ons chosen from the group of lists comprising add-ons that have been used by the application program, add-ons currently loaded for use with the application program, and add-ons currently blocked for use with the application program.

9. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium containing computer-executable instructions ~~for performing steps of a method of allowing~~ that, when executed in a data processing device, allow the users of an application program to manage add-ons associated with the application program, the add-ons comprising generating a user interface that identifies

add-ons associated with the application program and responding to user input for managing the enable/disable state of said add-ons, the ~~method comprising~~ computer-executable instructions including instructions that, when executed, cause said data processing device to:

(a) ~~generating~~ generate a user interface that identifies add-ons associated with [[an]] the application program and responds to user input for managing the enable/disable state of said add-ons; and

(b) in response to user input, ~~managing~~ manages the enable/disable state of said add-ons by:

(i) determining if the user has selected a list of add-ons;

(ii) if the user has selected a list of add-ons, determining if the user has selected a particular add-on from the list;

(iii) if the user has selected a particular add-on from the list, determining if the user has chosen to disable or enable the particular add-on;

(iv) if the user has chosen to disable the particular add-on, disabling the add-on; and

(v) if the user has chosen to enable the add-on, enabling the add-on.

10. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 9, wherein said add-ons are chosen from the group comprising ActiveX® controls, browser helper objects, and toolbar extensions.

11. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 9, wherein said add-ons include ActiveX® controls, and wherein the method further comprises updating said ActiveX® controls, in response to user input.

12. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 9, wherein at least some of said add-ons are included in an explicit list of administrator-denied add-ons, and wherein the method further comprises prohibiting the enablement of said administrator-denied add-ons in response to user input.

13. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 9, wherein at least some of said add-ons are included in an explicit list of administrator-approved add-ons, and wherein the method further comprises allowing the disablement of said administrator-approved add-ons in response to user input.

14. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 9, wherein an administrator of the application program has the capacity to disable a user's ability to manage the add-ons.

15. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 9, wherein said user interface identifies add-ons by displaying information selected from the group comprising the name of the add-on, the publisher of the add-on, the status of the add-on, the type of add-on, and the time when the add-on was lastly accessed.

16. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 9, wherein said user interface includes at least one list of add-ons chosen from the group of lists comprising add-ons that have been used by the application program, add-ons currently loaded for use with the application program, and add-ons currently blocked for use with the application program.